

FESTINIOG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

III III

REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR 1939

BY

J. W. MORRIS

L.R.C.P. & S. (ED.), L.R.F.P.S. (GLAS.)

CAPTAIN R.A.M.C. (SPECIAL RESERVE)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

III III

Blaenau Festiniog :

Printed at the "Glorian" Office, Church Street.



To the Festiniog Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year ending December, 1939.

The Registrar General's estimate of Mid-year 1939, resident population is 8,374, a decrease of 120 as compared with 1938.

The General Death rate for 1939 is 17.41, as compared with 16.13 for 1938.

The Birth rate for 1939 is 15.64, as compared with 13.42 for 1938.

I beg to thank J. Lloyd Humphreys, Esq., J.P., Oakeley Quarries, and E. L. Evans, Esq., Council's Surveyor for supplying me with Rainfall Records for the year.

I have to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by the two Sanitary Inspectors.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. MORRIS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	16,323
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	8,374
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate	...	...	...	...	...
Books	...	...	...	...	2,400
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£24,646
Net sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£89-5-11

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industries of the district are Slate and Granite Quarrying, which is extremely strenuous work.

A large percentage of Quarrymen work underground, some down to 700 feet, and the rest work in Mills on the surface, where there is a great deal of dust created from sawing and dressing the slate.

Slate Quarrying in the district is responsible for the prevalence of Pulmonary diseases and Rheumatism.

The climate of the district is cold and wet, the average rainfall for 1939 being 81.54 inches.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

		M.	F.	
Live Births—Total	...	63	68	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.64
Legitimate	...	60	65	
Illegitimate	...	3	3	
Still Births—Total	...	3	4	
Legitimate	...	2	3	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... .72
Illegitimate	...	1	1	
Deaths—Total	...	67	79	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 17.41

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

			Deaths.	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 7.25
Other puerperal causes	...	...	One	
Total	...	...	One	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	75.76
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	56.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	500
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	16
Measles (all ages)	...	...	3
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	One

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age...	...	3	7
Legitimate	...	2	5
Illegitimate	...	1	2

There were epidemics of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Measles during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH (R.G.) RETURNS.

				M.	F.
Influenza	...	...	...	3	6
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	8	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	1
Cancer	...	...	...	7	9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	1
Measles	...	...	...	2	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	5	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	12	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	2	5
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
Diarrhoea, 2 years or over	...	...	...	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	2	2
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	—	5
Senility	...	...	...	—	4
Other Violence	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	5	6
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	4
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	67	79
				—	—
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales 1939	...	...	...	...	15.
General Death Rate for England and Wales 1939	...	...	...	...	12.1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical—One part time Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary—There are two Sanitary Inspectors and they discharge all the duties of an Inspector between them. One is acting part time in another department.

They both hold the necessary qualification for the position. Mr. George Davies, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, holds the Inspector of Nuisance's Certificate and the Practical Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is a Member of the Institute (M.R.San.I). He holds the Certificate in Sanitary Knowledge of the School of Hygiene, University of Liverpool, and the Certificate in Sanitary Engineering of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers and is an Associate Member of the Institution (A.M.I.S.E.).

Mr. Robert John Owen, the District Inspector, holds the Inspector of Nuisance's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Local Authority has an arrangement with Evan's Research Laboratory, Runcorn, for the examination of swabs from all suspected cases of Diphtheria, also Conway Laboratory under the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) *Infectious Cases*—There is no Isolation Hospital in the area, so there are no ambulance facilities for Infectious cases.

All infectious cases are treated in their homes.

(b) *Non Infectious and Accident Cases*—A Motor Ambulance Car is available at the Memorial Hospital.

(c) *Maternity Patients*—Conveyed in the Hospital Motor Ambulance when necessary.

Nursing in the Home.

The Festiniog Nursing Association employs Three State registered Nurses who are also qualified Midwives. One of these Nurses is in charge of Festiniog Village.

No Nurse available for Infectious diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly at the Garregddu Chapel Vestry (in the centre of the Town) at 2 p.m. The accommodation is all that could be desired.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Cases.

The County Medical Officer of Health has arranged a series of these Clinics which are held periodically by Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley, F.R.C.S., Chester. It would be a great advantage to the area if these clinics were held oftener.

Mental Clinics.

Dr. Frank Jones, Superintendent of the North Wales Mental Hospital, Denbigh, is holding the above Clinics at the Medical Department, County Offices, Dolgelley, once a month, where suitable cases can be sent to him.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Held fortnightly at the Women's Institute. The clinic is visited regularly by the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

School Clinics.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges these clinics, and I should like to express my appreciation of the thorough and efficient manner this work is carried out.

Tuberculosis Clinics.

This work is carried out under the auspices of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association.

The County Tuberculosis Physician attends the Clinic at Wynne Road, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month, also on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 11 a.m.

The Clinic has an excellent X-Ray plant and is available for ALL CHEST conditions whether tubercle or not.

The Doctor also attends at Llan Festiniog twice monthly (by appointment).

I desire to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by Dr. Jackson at the Memorial Clinics.

Treatment Centre of Venereal Diseases.

This Centre is held at the C. and A. Infirmary, Bangor, on Thursdays 2—5 p.m. for Male Patients, and Fridays 2—5 p.m. for Female Patients.

The Centre is under the control of the County Council, and the County M.O.H. arranges for blood tests (Wasserman Reaction).

Hospitals.

There is one Hospital in the District. The Festiniog and District Memorial Hospital—situated in the Centre of the Town, overlooking Cwmbowydd Valley.

It is a Cottage Hospital for general and Medical cases. It has 19 beds, and is available for persons residing in the following parishes:—Dolwyddelen, Penmachno, Festiniog, Maentwrog, Trawsfynydd, Llanfrothen, Penrhyndeudraeth, Talsarnau, Harlech, Llanfair and Llanbedr.

The Festiniog U.D. Council has a representative on the Committee of Management.

The Hospital is very well equipped for any major operation and possesses an operating Theatre. An X-Ray plant has been installed, with all the latest electro-medical equipment.

The Hospital is doing splendid work.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The whole district except some farmhouses and a few isolated houses is supplied with water from the Morwynion Lake. The water continues satisfactory. Two samples of the water were taken in December 1939,—one of the raw water from tap on main before passing through the filter plant at Garreglwyd, and the other of filtered water at Old Duffws Station. The results were satisfactory in both cases. The Analyst states that “at the time of sampling, the water, even unfiltered, appeared to be satisfactory.”

No important extensions of water supply were carried out during 1939. Special attention was given to the work of detection of leakages in the mains and which had occurred owing to the severe frost experienced in the winter. Several leakages were found and remedied.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The work of extending the sewer from the manhole in the School field at Tanygrisiau to the Factory Bridge and which was commenced at the end of 1938 was completed during the year.

The sewer was laid in river from back of Carmel Chapel to Bethel Chapel and was afterwards carried through the fields as far as Penrhiw,

near Castell Barlwyd, where the ground rises sharply. At this point a deep manhole was constructed in order to provide a proper gradient for section of sewer between this point and Factory Bridge. In the lower section of the sewer between the manhole in School field and Penrhiw considerable difficulty was experienced from water in the excavations owing to the proximity of the river. The sewer passes at back of Penrhiw through solid rock which rises nearly perpendicular to level of yards of houses. In order to support this section of the sewer a retaining wall had to be built alongside the river for a distance of 145 feet and having an average height of 8 ft. The sewer had to be excavated in solid rock at Factory Bridge to an average depth of about 7 feet across the main road.

In order to provide drainage for the two houses of Manod View and Nos. 1 to 7, Barlwyd Terrace, a new 6" sewer was constructed and connected to the new sewer at Factory Bridge.

The lengths of sewer constructed in the above works are as follows :—

From Manhole in School Field to	
Deep Manhole near Penrhiw	= 2220 feet of 18" Pipes.
From Deep Manhole near Penrhiw	
to Factory Bridge.	= 55 feet of 12" Pipes.
Manod View & Barlwyd Terr. Branch	= 162 feet of 6" Pipes.

Existing drainage at the following premises were connected to the new sewer :—Tanygrisiau Schools, Carmel Chapel and Cottages, Post Office and Llys Morfa, Bethel Chapel, Fronhaul Shop and adjoining house, Penrhiw, Dolafon and 4, Penybont.

New drainage was constructed at two houses of Castell Barlwyd, 1 & 2, Manod View and 1 to 7, Barlwyd Terrace.

When the Road Improvement was carried out at Glanypwll Corner during the year, advantage was taken at the time to construct a 12" sewer from the outlet of the sewer from Rhiw, near Fronheulog, and along the North Western Road up to the gateway that leads to Wakefield Cottage, a distance of 345 feet, at an average depth of 8 feet. The excavation was partly in peat and partly in rock. This sewer is a portion of Sewerage Scheme No. 4 and will ultimately take the sewage from Dorfil Street and Benar View district.

House drains were constructed to the six new houses built re overcrowding at Fronfawr. Drains were also constructed to all new buildings and houses erected during the year, and existing drains of some houses were reconstructed.

Rivers and Streams.

The sewer referred to under the heading of "Sewerage and Drainage" from the manhole in field near Tanygrisiau School to the Factory Bridge will, when the connections are completed, prevent any sewage from this area going into the river.

Closet Accommodation.

One new pail closet was made at Penybont, Tanygrisiau, to replace a defective privy. No pail closets were converted into water closets during the year.

Three water closets were made to replace defective privies and 21 water closets were constructed as new accommodation, six of these being at Fronfawr. Six water closets were abolished owing to the demolition of the houses.

The number of water closets in use at the end of the year was 2406.

Owing to non compliance with notices re closets of four houses at Blaenycæ, Rhiw, the work was done in default by the Council and the costs incurred recovered from the owner.

Public Cleansing.

There has been no change in the method of collection and disposal of house refuse in the district during the year.

A New Motor Lorry with a proper cover for the removal of house refuse was purchased during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of formal notices issued	...	...	17
Number complied with	...	...	12
Total number of informal notices issued	...	...	219
Number complied with	...	...	179
Total number of New Houses completed —			
(a) by Local Sanitary Authority	...	...	6
(b) by private enterprise	...	...	6
Number of plans new Houses, buildings	...	...	12
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	19
Number of notices re defects	...	...	2
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	43
Number of notices re defects	...	...	6
Visits to milk shops	...	...	4
Number of notices re defects	...	...	—
Visits to Dairies	...	...	21
Number of notices re defects	...	...	3
Visits to slaughter houses	...	...	72
Number of notices re defects	...	...	7
Notices re removal of ashes	...	...	24
Notices re removal of manure	...	...	2
Notices re defective drains	...	...	34
Number of visits to cases of infectious diseases	...	...	108
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	56
Notices of defective water fittings	...	...	189
Number of pail closets converted into W.C.	...	...	None
Number of New water closets erected	...	...	24
Total number of Water closets	...	...	2406
Pail Closets	...	...	65
Privies or other closets	...	...	131
Number of closets serving more than one house	...	...	13
Milk Samples taken for Ministry of Health	...	...	—
For County Council	...	...	10
For Local Sanitary Authority	...	...	—

Shops and Offices.
 Camping Sites.
 Smoke Abatement.
 Swimming Baths and Pools.
 Schools.

The remarks in last year's Report apply to this year also.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No Council houses were found to be infested during the year. There were few complaints about other houses and these were dealt with. The methods employed are the same as mentioned in last year's Report.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	203
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	248
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	21
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	32
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	9

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	48
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a)	<i>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	None
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners ...	None
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	None
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	72
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners ...	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	4
(c)	<i>Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	4

(d) *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	None

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year ...	23
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	24
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	144
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	15
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	92
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	None
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

The six four-bedroom houses erected at Fronfawr for the abatement of overcrowding were completed and occupied during the year. These relieved six cases of serious overcrowding.

Other Housing Remarks.

The following houses were demolished during the year under Demolition Orders previously made :—

Old Tanyclogwyn Cottage.

1 & 2 Old Talwaenydd.

1 Old Trefeini.

Undertakings under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act 1936, were accepted in respect of

Moelwyn Mine House.

Back Bank Place.

1 & 2 Back Dinas Road.

A Closing Order was made on the Librarian's House, Church St.

The farmhouse at Bontnewydd, Cwm Cynfal, was reconstructed during the year.

The Council have erected under the Housing Acts, 34 three-bedroom and 8 four-bedroom houses for the purpose of slum clearance and 6 four-bedroom houses for the purpose of relieving overcrowding, a total of 48 houses. Four of these houses are at Manod and 44 at Fronfawr.

Housing and Anti-Tuberculosis Report.

In connection with the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Anti-Tuberculosis Service in Wales and Monmouthshire and known as Mr. Clement Davies' Report, the Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Walter E. Elliott and his staff made a tour of inspection of various districts in Wales. We were notified by the Welsh Board of Health that he proposed to visit this district on the 24th April.

Unfortunately Mr. Elliott had to return to London on urgent business before he reached this district, but his staff and others attended the Council Offices on that date. There were present—on behalf of the Minister of Health, Sir George Chrystal, Secretary, and Sir Arthur McNalty, Chief Medical Officer (Mrs. Walter Elliott was also present) and others. On behalf of the Welsh Board of Health, Sir John Rowland, Chairman, and Dr. Wade, Chief Medical Officer. On behalf of the County Council, H. J. Owen, Esq., Clerk, and Dr. E. Lewys Lloyd, County Medical Officer. On behalf of the Festiniog U.D. Council, Owen Edwards, Esq., J.P., Chairman, together with Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The Chairman of the Council presided over the meeting.

Long discussions took place re Housing, Silicosis, Milk in Schools, Nutrition, etc.

Notes on Housing were read and a copy handed to Sir George Chrystal. The proposal to build fifty more houses was approved.

The Council made enquiries as to sites for building these fifty houses, but owing to the war the matter has been dropped.

A Sub-Committee of the Merioneth County Council appointed to consider the Public Health Services in the County in connection with Mr. Clement Davies' Anti-Tuberculosis Report met the Festiniog U.D. Council at the Public Offices, Blaenau Festiniog, on June 20th, 1939, and a full discussion took place on various matters arising from the Report.

(Mr. Clement Davies, K.C., M.P., spoke on the Anti-Tuberculosis Report at a Public Meeting held at Jerusalem Chapel, Blaenau Festiniog, on June 23rd, 1939).

New Buildings.

Twelve plans of New Buildings were submitted for approval during the year. These include a plan of three new houses at Wynne Road for Mrs. E. M. Jones. Alterations or additions to four existing buildings and four new motor garages.

The following new houses were completed during the year:—Bungalow, back of Oxford Street; house at Plasisa; conversion of Old Brynglas Chapel, Manod, into a dwelling-house; conversion of old Warehouse, etc., at back of, 1 The Square into a house; conversion of the rooms at 1st Floor at 41 Church Street into a flat, and Bontnewydd (rebuilt).

A block of three new houses at Wynne Road were in course of erection at the end of the year and two new houses at Baron Road.

The house and shop at 6 High Street, were completely demolished and a new substantial building containing offices and shop were erected on the site for the Britannic Assurance Coy., and the work was completed during the year.

A new Shop and Bakehouse were erected at Dorfil Road for the Co-operative Society and these are also well constructed and modern.

The new Shop and Wine Stores at Queen's Bridge were completed during the year.

Substantial alterations were made at Central Hall, New Road, for Urdd Gobaith Cymru. Alterations were made at back of 1 The Square, and a new back kitchen was erected at 39 Lord Street.

Garages have been erected at top of Dorfil Street for Mr. Owen Williams; at 3 Peniel Terrace, Festiniog, for Mr. Griffith Ellis; at Benar Road for Mr. Geo. Jones; at back of 26 The Square, for Mr. Morris W. Jones and a public garage and workshop at Church Street for the Queen's Motor Coy.

An extension was made to the Fire Station at Bwlchgywynt, during the year and the building is now double the size of the old building.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

One Producer-Retailer was added to the register during the year and the application of another was postponed and one Producer only was added. Two Producer-Retailers were removed from the register and one Producer only was removed.

The number on the Register at 31st December, 1939, was :—

Producers only ...	...	...	5
Retail Purveyors only ...	...	...	9
Producer-Retailers ...	...	...	20
Total ...			34

Seventy visits were made to the various dairies, cowsheds and milkshops during the year.

Ten samples of milk for T. B. examination were taken for the County Medical Officer of Health and sent to the laboratory at Aberystwyth.

The licences of the four Milk Dealers selling Tuberculin Tested Milk were renewed during the year.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Regular visits were made to the slaughter-houses and meat shops during the year.

Applications were received during the year from Messrs. J. H. Dewhurst, Ltd., 27 High Street. and Messrs. W. & R. Fletcher, 14 Church Street, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, for the registration of their premises to be used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted meat, preserved food, etc., intended for sale, and both were granted.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in force in the district under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

(e) *Nutrition.*

{ No special action taken
apart from the samples
of Milk taken for T. B.
examination.

Rainfall in 1939 at Morwynion Lake.

Taken at 9 a.m. daily.
Above Ground, 10 ft.

Diameter of funnel, 4 inches.
Above Sea Level, 1320 feet.

MONTH.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of days with	
				.01 ins. or more.	.04 ins. or more.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		
January	9.55	1.45	15	18	16
February	7.17	.92	10	19	18
March	4.52	.83	2	22	16
April	4.22	.85	24	16	13
May	1.03	.24	17	10	10
June	4.48	1.42	16	14	12
July	11.17	1.70	30	25	21
August	3.87	1.37	3	17	14
September	2.06	.86	11	10	7
October	3.80	.75	24	21	16
November	11.88	2.90	26	27	22
December	6.54	1.54	2	14	13
Total	70.29			213	178

Rainfall in 1939 at Bethesda Cemetery.

Taken at 9 a.m. daily.
Above Ground, 9 ft.

Diameter of funnel, 5 inches.
Above Sea Level, 750 ft.

MONTH.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of days with	
				.01 ins. or more.	.04 ins. or more.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		
January	7.90	1.08	7	22	20
February	7.53	1.22	10	19	18
March	4.22	1.08	22	22	15
April	4.74	.92	9	18	15
May	1.01	.25	17	10	8
June	4.06	1.34	16	14	10
July	11.97	1.61	3	24	23
August	3.61	1.76	3	16	13
September	2.32	1.12	11	9	7
October	3.53	.73	24	17	14
November	14.11	4.12	26	27	21
December	8.86	2.05	2	15	14
Total	73.86			213	178

The above two tables of rainfall were supplied by E. L. Evans, Esq., the U.D.C. Engineer and Surveyor.

The Oakeley Slate Quarries Co., Ltd. Rainfall in 1939.

MONTH.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of days with .01 ins. or more. .04 ins. or more.	
		Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
January 	10.99	1.72	17	17	17
February 	11.87	2.27	10	18	18
March 	4.58	1.11	21	15	15
April 	5.90	.98	13	17	16
May 	1.26	.28	21	9	8
June 	7.06	1.77	14	13	12
July 	14.84	2.26	28	23	22
August 	5.43	1.62	2	13	11
September 	2.74	1.27	10	7	6
October 	4.42	1.14	10	15	14
November 	18.98	4.13	25	24	22
December .. .	12.39	4.02	1	13	11
Total 	100.46			184	172

The above supplied by J. Lloyd Humphreys, Esq., Manager
Oakeley Quarries.

FACTORIES.**1.—Inspection of Factories** (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices. 3	Occupiers prosecuted. 4
Factories with Mech. Power ..	7		
Factories without ditto ..	23	1	None
Other Premises (Other than Outworkers' do.) ..			
Total	30	1	None

2.—Defects found.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Ref. to H.M. Insp. 4	
Want of cleanliness	None	None	None	None
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes				
Total	1	1	None	None

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ...	23	2	1
Diphtheria ..	45	3	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	1
Pneumonia ..	2	4	11
Other diseases generally notifiable :—			
Measles ...	52	Nil	2
Whooping Cough ...	1	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ...	2	Nil	Nil
Other Diseases notifiable locally	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	126	10	18

Two cases of Scarlet Fever, and three cases of Diphtheria admitted to Colomendy Isolation Hospital, Corwen.

Cancer.

No special facilities are available for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5			1	1				1
15	4	2	3	1	1	1	2	
25	5	2		1	1			
35					2	1		
45								
55	2				2			
65 and upwards ...	1				2		1	
Total ..	12	4	4	4	8	2	3	1

The ratio of non-notified deaths to total tuberculosis deaths—Nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis is satisfactory in the area.

No action was taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Fibroid phthisis is prevalent among Quarrymen, and slate dust predisposes the Quarrymen to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The unhealthy conditions prevailing underground in some of the Quarries render the men more liable to tuberculosis infection.

Since the Clinic (King Edward VII Memorial Association) was opened a few years ago, it has been proved that Silicosis is prevalent amongst Slate Quarrymen, more especially among underground workers.

Tuberculosis patients are reluctant to enter Sanatoria for Institutional treatment, thus increasing the risk of infecting others.

GENERAL.

126 cases of Infectious Diseases (apart from tuberculosis) were notified during the year.

11 people died of Pneumonia during the year.

23 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, and one death occurred from Scarlet Fever.

45 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, and three deaths occurred from Diphtheria.

52 cases of Measles were notified during the year, and three deaths occurred from Measles.

One case of Erysipelas was notified during the year, but no deaths occurred from Erysipelas.

One case of Whooping Cough was notified during the year, but no deaths occurred from Whooping Cough.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year, and one death occurred from Puerperal Pyrexia.

Seven men and nine women died of Cancer during the year.

Fewer new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, but more deaths from Tuberculosis occurred than in 1938.

A temporary Isolation Hospital was opened at Colomendy, Corwen, in September. Three cases of Diphtheria and two cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted from this area.

Since September the examination of swabs for Diphtheria has been carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Castle Bank, Conway. This Laboratory also undertakes the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens, and Water Analysis.

The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations came into force on the 1st of April, 1939. A notice of the Regulations and a copy of them were sent to every Medical Practitioner in the district together with new Forms of notification.

The Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations came into force on the 23rd October, 1939, these Regulations provide for the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough. Books of notification Forms were sent to each Doctor practising in the District.

There is no Hospital accommodation for Measles or Whooping Cough in the area.

A supply of Anti-Diphtheria Serum is always kept by the M.O.H. for use of Medical Practitioners in the area.

No use was made of the Schick test for Diphtheria, or the Dick test for Scarlet Fever, or the artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

No primary or re-vaccinations were performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Smallpox preventions) Regulations, 1917.

There were no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies reported.

